

GOVERNMENT
OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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D.C. TAXICAB COMMISSION

+ + + + +

PUBLIC MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 13, 2007

The Meeting of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission convened in Hearing Room A, 2041 Martin Luther King, Jr Ave, S.E., Washington, D.C., 20001, pursuant to notice at 10:00 a.m., Doreen E. Thompson, Acting Chairperson, presiding.

TAXICAB COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

DOREEN E. THOMPSON	Acting Chairperson
STANLEY W. TAPSCOTT	Commissioner
SANDRA C. ALLEN	Commissioner
INDER RAJ PAHWA	Commissioner
THERESA N. TRAVIS	Commissioner
THOMAS E. HEINEMANN	Commissioner
WILLIAM HENRY CARTER IV	Commissioner
A. CORNELIUS BAKER	Commissioner
MARCELINE D. ALEXANDER, ESQ.	Secretary and Legal Counsel

This transcript constitutes the minutes from the public meeting and hearing held on June 13, 2007.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2

(10:10 a.m.)

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ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so much for coming out this morning. I'm Doreen Thompson, the Interim Chairperson at the D.C. Taxicab Commission. We started something that we think we need to continue, because I see some new faces, which is that we introduce the members of the Commission, and starting to my right.

11

COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Sandy Allen.

12

COMMISSIONER CARTER: William Carter.

13

COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Raj Pahwa.

14

COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Theresa Travis.

15

16

GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Marceline Alexander.

17

COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Stanley Tapscott.

18

COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: Tom Heinemann.

19

20

21

ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Oh. What about Mr. Baker? Oh. Commissioner Baker is also here somewhere. Okay. Thank you.

22

I also would like -- we -- actually this

12

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1 is a historic process that we've gone through
2 where we start with a moment of silence. And
3 I hope we have a very productive meeting, and
4 that -- orderly and productive meeting, and
5 that we accomplish all that we've set out to
6 accomplish. Thank you.

7 Thank you so much. Before we go into
8 the agenda, we have someone here who I would
9 like to introduce to all of you, and this is
10 Mr. Leon Swain. And Mr. Swain is the Mayor's
11 appointee for Chair of the D.C. Taxicab
12 Commission. Mr. Swain, I'd appreciate it if
13 you --

14 MR. SWAIN: Good morning. First time
15 I've been back here in a number of years, but
16 I was so happy when I got here and I saw a lot
17 of the same faces that I remember -- Mr.
18 Wright, Mr. Bugg.

19 And I'm happy, and I'm glad to see that
20 people are still coming, the drivers are still
21 coming to the Commission, and I look forward
22 to meeting with each and every one of you,

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1 because, you know what, it's not about the
2 commissioners.

3 It's not about the drivers. It's not
4 about -- it's about serving the city. And I
5 think that we're going to have a great future.
6 And I look forward to working with each and
7 every one of you. And right now I'm just
8 going to sit down in this chair and listen.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so
10 much, Mr. Swain.

11 The process is -- and everyone probably
12 has an agenda. You probably know I move off
13 of it a little bit to make -- hopefully so we
14 can have an orderly flow of business. The
15 next item is we then determine whether we have
16 a quorum, and our Interim General Counsel
17 handles that.

18 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Good
19 morning, everyone. As your name is called,
20 please announce whether or not you're present.
21 Commissioner Allen?

22 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Present.

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1 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
2 Baker?

3 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Present.

4 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
5 Carter?

6 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Present.

7 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
8 Heinemann?

9 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: Here.

10 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
11 Pahwa?

12 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Here.

13 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
14 Tapscott?

15 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Here.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
17 Travis?

18 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Here.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Interim
20 Chair Thompson?

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Here.

22 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: We have the

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1 entire full Commission membership present for
2 today's full Commission meeting. Therefore,
3 we have a quorum and are able to transact and
4 vote on business.

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you so
6 very much.

7 The first item on our agenda today is to
8 recognize one of our cab drivers, and, Mr.
9 Akinsulie, if you don't mind, if you could
10 just -- I think everyone needs to see who this
11 person is. Now, Mr. Akinsulie, how many years
12 have you been driving?

13 MR. AKINSULIE: Five years.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Five years.
15 Someone left a lot of money in a taxicab,
16 \$1,400 in cash. And Mr. Akinsulie brought
17 that back to the office, turned it in. And I
18 think this is just reflective of the cab
19 driving industry.

20 We get a lot of complaints about
21 drivers, but we also want to highlight when
22 people do exemplary things. And so, Mr.

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1 Akinsulie, we have, from the Commissioners, a
2 little something, a little something for you,
3 because we think this is just outstanding
4 customer service. Okay? Thank you so much.
5 Thank you.

6 The -- what we're going to do is vary a
7 little bit from the agenda, because Captain
8 Reese, who you might see a little further down
9 on the agenda, MPD, would like to be moved up.
10 And, as you know, we have had some concerns,
11 as well, about enforcement in 3D and specific
12 concerns about loitering being viewed as a
13 misdemeanor.

14 And I know Captain Reese has some other
15 concerns. He specifically -- we spoke when he
16 was focused on the robbery of cab drivers down
17 at Union Station. Captain Reese? And I don't
18 know if you'd like to --

19 CAPTAIN REESE: I'm Captain Mike Reese,
20 the Superintendent of Detectives Division, and
21 one of the -- one of the units -- I'm in the
22 Special Investigations Branch, and one of the

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1 components of that is the Robbery Division,
2 Career Criminal Unit. We handle serial
3 robberies. We handle robberies of commercial
4 establishments, to include banks, kidnappings
5 and extortions, and also we handle taxicab
6 drivers.

7 And when it was started a while ago,
8 primarily a spike of robberies were occurring
9 at 3D. Started out with doing all robberies.
10 We branched off to get a better grip on
11 patterns, typical carjackings and stuff
12 occurring across the city.

13 And I think I met with the Commission
14 about six or eight months ago and we were
15 supposed to have ongoing meetings, but I would
16 like to be a component of this meeting, the
17 monthly meeting, to hear concerns and to also
18 voice our concerns.

19 So in particular what happened was --
20 and real quick, I've just got Sergeant Lee
21 here to address -- I talked to Ms. Thompson --
22 some issues concerning 3D enforcement. So

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1 I'll do that.

2 Whatever issues come up, go through Ms.
3 Thompson or the new chairman and contact me
4 and I'll reach out to the appropriate district
5 and we can try to work through issues and
6 resolve the issues that you may have
7 concerning patrol. I know a lot of them, but
8 I don't really deal with that area.

9 But what happened was, we had a
10 gentleman that was going to Union Station, and
11 he was getting in line to catch a cab, and he
12 would use this verbiage, "Oh, I've been
13 working real hard," just real vocal about
14 that. And he'd get in there and he'd drive to
15 the 3900 block or 3300 block of East Capitol
16 Street and he would do a robbery.

17 So we picked up on this pattern. That's
18 what we do. We watch robberies. We picked up
19 on the pattern. Interviewed a few cab
20 drivers, and he was using the same verbiage,
21 the same lookout, and all that's important, so
22 I can see who -- see if we can link this

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1 crime.

2 So then we set up a detail on him, and
3 we knew we wasn't going to let him in a cab,
4 so when we saw him fitting that general
5 description we got some cooperation from other
6 people and we made the arrest. So that guy's
7 locked up.

8 But during the course of that
9 investigation, it was one particular cab
10 driver that, before we had got some more vital
11 information, he said, "Hey, guy robbed me," he
12 reported the crime but he gave the detective
13 kind of a feeling that he wasn't going to
14 cooperate, even though he could identify him.

15 And, you know, we can't have that. I
16 know people may have a lot of different
17 issues, but it's very important to cooperate
18 and make an ID of particular robberies.
19 Because we do really work on the back end and
20 link robberies to multiple cases.

21 Most of the time them guys commit
22 multiple offenses. So you might have a

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1 critical component of your particular robbery.
2 And the ID is very essential. So this
3 gentleman made it -- almost basically said he
4 wasn't going to cooperate.

5 Now, we've got ways to make you
6 cooperate. We can bring in a grand jury,
7 whatever we've got to do. But don't need to
8 do like that. That's not good for anybody.
9 That's not going to help. Especially being a
10 hostile witness.

11 So I just wanted to come here. Make
12 sure you tell your friends. I'll get my name
13 and number out. If you've got issues
14 concerning robberies, call. That's always
15 going to come across my desk, any robbery of a
16 taxicab driver. Throughout the city, it comes
17 across my desk.

18 I read every one every time you're
19 involved, so don't think I don't, because I'm
20 telling you right now I do. That's what I do.
21 So it's really, I just wanted to let everyone
22 know here, so when you reach out to people,

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1 just don't be hesitate to say anything. Yes,
2 sir?

3 MR. MESANDERAN: For the past 40 years,
4 no murderer of cab driver ever was brought to
5 justice. How would you explain that?

6 CAPTAIN REESE: You said that last time,
7 now. We're not -- I'm dealing with robberies
8 right now. We can talk about that --

9 MR. MESANDERAN: Murder is not
10 important.

11 CAPTAIN REESE: No, it's very important,
12 but, you know, I'm not going to say that. I
13 don't have statistics on that. And I know you
14 brought that last issue up the last time I saw
15 you six months ago. But we're still working
16 on that. If it's a particular case you want
17 to talk about, we'll work on that, okay?

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Do me a favor.
19 The transcriber needs to -- you need to
20 identify yourself. I saw a couple other hands
21 up. It makes for just a bad transcription
22 record. I think Mr. Lebet?

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1 MR. LEBET: I'm Philip Lebet from
2 Diamond. There is -- is this guy at the
3 station the same guy who's been calling cabs
4 on Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. and robbing them
5 near Randall Circle, or is this a different
6 one?

7 CAPTAIN REESE: This is a different one.
8 This one -- well, Randall Circle's not that
9 far from East Capitol.

10 MR. LEBET: Right.

11 CAPTAIN REESE: But this one, he was in
12 39 -- all the 3300 block to the 3900 block.
13 So, if what -- now, if there's some that you
14 may know that have been unreported, the look
15 of him, this guy was big, about 6'2", 6'3",
16 kind of light-skinned.

17 MR. LEBET: Yes.

18 CAPTAIN REESE: It could've been him.
19 Now, if it was reported, it's different. But
20 we linked him to these. And he had the gun,
21 and he had a robbery kit. He had a bag. He
22 had two pair of sunglasses.

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1 He had a dark shirt on. He was wearing
2 a white shirt. Two hats. So, you know -- and
3 a gun in there, so, you know, he knew that he
4 could get away with these robberies. And
5 that's just the way it is.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. King?

7 MR. KING: Yes, Ted King, District Cab
8 546. You know, I appreciate the fact of your
9 coming, but I would also -- you said you were
10 going to give your name and number so if we --

11 CAPTAIN REESE: Yes, sure.

12 MR. KING: But you don't have to give it
13 right now.

14 CAPTAIN REESE: I'll give it out to
15 everybody.

16 MR. KING: But what I was going to say
17 is I wanted to address the same thing that
18 this gentleman on the end, and I'm not going
19 to talk about the murders, but I wanted to let
20 you know personally, and I'm sure that there
21 are others here that feel the same way, that
22 we are glad to hear that there is someone out

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1 there just looking, because that then -- I've
2 been out here a number of years, and I don't
3 know of anyone, really, that has -- I've
4 called the police a number of times because I
5 needed them, but I didn't get the aid of the
6 police.

7 So it's good to hear that you got this
8 guy. And I know that I'd heard that before,
9 because someone told me that they have
10 captured the guy right there. They were there
11 when you got the guy in the station. So
12 that's a good thing.

13 CAPTAIN REESE: I think that -- that's
14 good. I think that putting one set of eyes on
15 it, on cab robberies across the city, gives
16 you -- it's a better vision. I'm not saying
17 the guys in the district -- sometimes the guys
18 in the district detectives, they'll focus on
19 what's going on in their district.

20 When you go citywide, we look at -- not
21 only we look at them citywide, but we look at
22 them region wide, Montgomery County, Prince

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1 George's County, work closely with those guys.
2 So it just gives us a better view.

3 And, you know, we're just getting -- I
4 think it's the best effort. So I have to
5 applaud the administration that forwarded this
6 information to us, and we'll still look at it.

7 MR. KING: I think it's good, you know,
8 because that information will get out there,
9 and then those that have been preying upon the
10 drivers, I think that once they hear that
11 there is some enforcement, then people are
12 going to back off somewhat.

13 So I do applaud you, and I appreciate
14 that, because I did hear about that from a
15 city councilperson. I didn't know it was
16 happening until she told me that there was
17 robberies going on at Union Station.

18 CAPTAIN REESE: We did a press
19 conference on it and whatnot and got it out
20 there.

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, and we
22 actually here probably need to do a better

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1 job, because -- but what happened is that when
2 you called me we had just gotten the flyer,
3 and then you called me back and they had
4 gotten the guy.

5 CAPTAIN REESE: Yes.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So we need
7 some other, I think, a better mechanism to get
8 it out more quickly.

9 CAPTAIN REESE: And I know it was a
10 series of robberies up in the Fourth District.
11 They did a good job up in there before we took
12 them over. I don't think they were able to
13 close them, but I think the people that did
14 them stopped. So sometime you might not be
15 able to put the finger right on them.

16 That we thought, you know, because if
17 that ID process is good, you know, we might
18 know. It might take, the level of
19 investigation might almost go to the top, but
20 not enough that we can actually charge, but
21 that's our goal, to at least give 50 -- we
22 want to charge with 50 crimes, period. That's

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1 what we want to do.

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We're -- we've
3 got a really tight agenda --

4 CAPTAIN REESE: Okay.

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: -- so I do
6 appreciate. And --

7 CAPTAIN REESE: So my number is, office
8 is 202-727-7139. And I'm Michael Reese. And
9 you'll -- just so you can move on with your
10 agenda, if anybody had any issues with
11 enforcement within the Third District, we'll
12 step outside and you can talk to Sergeant Lee
13 and try to work with him.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, let me --
15 we have -- Ms. Travis brought to my attention
16 some concerns, as I expressed to you, that the
17 enforcement of loitering involves some
18 arrests. And she indicated that she was told
19 that some cab drivers were handcuffed. I'm
20 not sure if it was just for that. It may have
21 been something else, as well.

22 But she's passed that on, and so we do

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1 really want some discussion, some ongoing
2 discussion, about the enforcement of the
3 taxicab regulations to ensure that we're all
4 on the same footing, so to speak, in terms of
5 our understanding of it.

6 I also heard that there were fines of
7 \$150, which is a little odd, because the
8 regulation actually has in it the fine amount,
9 and it's a misdemeanor, and it says not less
10 than \$10 or more than \$50 for this. And we
11 have it scheduled out at \$25.

12 So we want to make sure that we're all
13 doing the same enforcement. So even though
14 I'm not sure that you're here today to speak
15 on that issue, we could follow up.

16 SERGEANT LEE: Well, I'm just here, I'm
17 Sergeant Lee, like the captain said, from 3D,
18 and basically was here to come down and see, I
19 guess there's been a problem with some type of
20 enforcement in the Third District Northwest,
21 3D encompasses New York Avenue going
22 northbound all the way up to Columbia Road,

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1 and then from 5th Street all the way up to
2 Connecticut Avenue going east and west.

3 So if anybody have any concerns if you
4 work in that particular area that the
5 enforcement's been, you feel has been unjust,
6 step out here and you can tell me so we will
7 look into it.

8 CAPTAIN REESE: But for issues with
9 fines and the uniformity of fines, just email
10 me the concerns. What I'll do is I'll forward
11 them to the different assistant chiefs and
12 they could trickle them down so everyone can
13 look at it, because that might be an issue
14 that's just not exclusive to the Third
15 District. It needs to be, I think something
16 like that is something that needs to be
17 departmental wide. So I can push -- I will
18 forward that information for you.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Ms. Travis?

20 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: I was going to
21 say, Detective Reese, I've heard that at least
22 six drivers have been arrested, handcuffed and

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1 with fines up to \$150, which is in --
2 different from what our Title 31 says, where
3 it is just a misdemeanor. And the drivers are
4 concerned that when they apply for re-
5 licensing that they have this felony charge
6 against them on their record.

7 CAPTAIN REESE: Well, if it's a charge
8 where they have to make a summary arrest and
9 taken into custody, that -- if it's -- the
10 charge is what it is, really. That -- if it's
11 a misdemeanor, when it goes to court their
12 record won't reflect a felony.

13 So it'll either be -- so just got to
14 take a look at each case and see what it is.
15 Maybe they're not understanding, whatever.
16 But that's the system. It really screens.
17 That's good right there.

18 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Well, they've all
19 been charged with loitering.

20 CAPTAIN REESE: I don't know, think, I
21 don't know if that's a summary arrest,
22 personally.

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1 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: It should not
2 be, because --

3 CAPTAIN REESE: Well, it might be, that
4 might be the basis to stop, make a stop, but
5 if they stop them and they have like a no
6 license or something like that, or permit
7 suspended or something like that, it could be
8 a bunch of scenarios.

9 So it really, really we have to take
10 each individual case. And we can't sit up
11 here and talk about it at this meeting,
12 because we don't know. So it could be
13 forever.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm just going
15 to take this one question here. Mr. Archer?

16 MR. LUCAS: My name is William Lucas.

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Lucas.

18 MR. LUCAS: What he's talking about is
19 the loitering is a, a law's been passed that
20 loitering is a felony, and that's probably why
21 they got arrested.

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, no, Mr.

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1 Lucas, it's not. It's a misdemeanor.

2 MR. LUCAS: Would you take a look at the
3 regulations?

4 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, we have it,
5 we looked at it. It's a misdemeanor.

6 In fact, we actually -- \$50 -- yes, it's
7 not. It says it's a misdemeanor. It's a
8 misdemeanor. So we're sure there's something
9 else associated with those scenarios.

10 MR. LUCAS: Well, I've got to go look at
11 my regulation, because in the one that I've
12 got it says a felony.

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Any
14 comments or questions?

15 Thank you so much, you all. Thank you
16 so much.

17 CAPTAIN REESE: I'll come to the next
18 one.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, please.
20 Yes, ongoing. Thank you.

21 All right. I'd like to go back to the
22 agenda and just sort of do a little bit of

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1 management here with it. The reports at the
2 bottom, the minutes were -- are not ready, and
3 the Department of Transportation, we've been
4 trying to keep them involved, as you might
5 recall, because we have some concerns about
6 traffic directions and streets, inability to
7 make turns and those kinds of issues.

8 And we got back with Mr. Hardy, and he
9 has not gotten back to us on this. But we --
10 each month we check back with him to see what
11 is the progress of the changes you're making.
12 And so we will stay on top of that.

13 We also monthly keep up with the
14 Superintendent of Insurance and WMATC. We
15 send these things to them to see if they've
16 got some issues, and so this is why it appears
17 on the agenda. But we will just in fact
18 remove all those issues and deal with the
19 communications issues.

20 Now, the one issue that I do want to
21 talk about is the legislation, the emergency
22 legislation that was passed. And I'm not

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1 sure, because I don't see it in anybody's
2 hand, I actually had reproduced a copy of the
3 legislation and of the licensing form. Does
4 everybody have that?

5 Everyone's aware Mr. Graham passed
6 emergency legislation to allow out-of-state
7 residents who are applying for a DCTC to in
8 fact have the ability to bring new cars on.
9 Remember, there was that grandfathering
10 scenario that allowed you to continue to
11 register your old vehicle.

12 And between DMV, our agency and Office
13 of Tax and Revenue, they've created a form,
14 and I would of course encourage you to go
15 online. I just wanted to share this with you.
16 The form will probably be massaged a little
17 bit. But it pretty much lays out for you that
18 there are a number of documents that you will
19 have to provide.

20 One of the things we tried to do was to
21 try to make it so that you don't have to come
22 here, get some kind of acknowledgment that you

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1 do have a hack license. Because that's one of
2 the -- the way the legislation's written, it
3 says you first have to have a current hack
4 license.

5 You also have had to have had a hack
6 license on March 1, 2006. So, in essence,
7 we're going to have DMV look at the data in
8 order to do that kind of certification. I
9 don't know -- you do have a copy of the
10 legislation? I see this puzzled look. All
11 right, we're going to get you a copy.

12 No, no. We were reproducing them just
13 then. You'll see, what it says is the -- this
14 is the way the exemption reads.

15 "An owner of a vehicle need not be a
16 resident of the District if the owner is an
17 individual who holds a valid license to
18 operate a taxicab or limousine within the
19 District of Columbia," so you've got to have a
20 valid hack license when you're applying, "the
21 owner held a valid hack -- valid license to
22 operate a taxicab or a limousine within the

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1 District of Columbia on March 1, 2006, the
2 owner resided outside the District of Columbia
3 on March 1, 2006, the owner had registered a
4 vehicle with the District of Columbia
5 Department of Motor Vehicles on March 1,
6 2006."

7 So it has all of these requirements that
8 you need to meet in order to register your new
9 vehicle, people who live outside the District.
10 And of course it also has in it that you will
11 have to provide some forms to the Office of
12 Tax and Revenue for business taxes.

13 It says, "The owner of the vehicle has,
14 prior to registering the vehicle, on or after
15 the effective date of this legislation but no
16 later than September 28, 2007, registered with
17 the Office of Tax and Revenue for business
18 taxes by completing a tax registration form."

19 So what I -- what we've done is we've
20 put together a DCTC license application form.
21 And it pretty much picks up all of these
22 things that you have to have. You've got to

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1 have your insurance One-Stop card, your DC
2 inspection verification sheet, things you're
3 familiar with already, your driver's license,
4 your vehicle registration card.

5 But it's also now saying you have to
6 fill in these Office of Tax and Revenue forms,
7 FR500, Combined Business Tax, FR500T, Taxicab
8 and Limousine Supplemental Information Form.

9 So I just wanted to share this with you
10 so that you're aware. The only -- in
11 reapplying for your DCTC only when the
12 independents, or new independents are seeking
13 numbers would you have to come over here to
14 get an assignment of a number.

15 So to get a DCTC, you're going to do
16 what you've been doing in the past, which is
17 to go to DMV. And this form will be online.
18 It will be available here. And, of course,
19 you know, yesterday was the first day that
20 they started implementing it.

21 One second. I see about four hands.
22 Mr. Bethea?

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1 MR. BETHEA: Yes, Ron Bethea, owner-
2 operator of Independent 252. My question
3 concerning this new application form, in the
4 past, under Mayor Barry, there was an
5 exemption made for new vehicles for cab
6 drivers so they would not have to pay sales
7 tax on the purchase of new vehicles being put
8 into the fleet. I think that legislation also
9 spoke to the issue of humbrids.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm sorry, what?

11 MR. BETHEA: Hybrids. Hybrids, not
12 humbrids, but hybrids, with -- and wheelchair-
13 accessible vehicles, in terms of putting these
14 new vehicles, there would not be sales tax on
15 those vehicles charged for these new vehicles
16 being put. Is that addressed in that --

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No. No. It's
18 not affecting that at all.

19 MR. BETHEA: Okay.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No. I saw a
21 number of hands. Carolyn?

22 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, Carolyn Robinson,

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1 Yellow Cab 800. My question is with all of
2 the agencies that you've interacted with to
3 devise this form, with tax and revenue forms,
4 those -- I think you said 500, it was two
5 separate forms that you --

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: 500 and 500T.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, okay. This is
8 something that's just going to start up as of
9 March 6, 2006, or are they going to go back?

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, they're not
11 going back. And they're not starting in 2006.
12 It's actually a current, and, essentially the
13 legislation also allows -- it sort of
14 recognizes that you're starting in the middle
15 of, for example, the clean hands.

16 It actually says, "The owner of the
17 vehicle shall be permitted to register a
18 vehicle for the 2007 year without having to
19 undergo clean hands." So it's basically
20 starting, anyone who comes in now will have to
21 do the 500 and the 500T. But in terms of
22 clean hands at Office of Tax and Revenue, it

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1 won't start for the 2000 year. It would be
2 people who are starting in 2008.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Okay, my other question
4 is, all these multi-jurisdictional limousine
5 licenses that were probably issued, I think
6 you -- I think in the budget hearing they said
7 there's about 2,000 of them, they're going to
8 all fit into this new scenario?

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Everyone who
10 applies. Yes. Everyone who applies for a
11 DCTC, an authorization. That should cover
12 everyone.

13 Mr. Wright? Mr. Wright, you need to
14 introduce yourself.

15 MR. WRIGHT: This is applying to just
16 Maryland and Virginia drivers.

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No. Everyone
18 applying for a DCTC will apply for, will have
19 this form.

20 MR. WRIGHT: So District drivers have
21 to?

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: District drivers

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1 as well. What will happen is, you know, if
2 you're a District driver you've been paying
3 taxes anyway, here. So when it asks for
4 information, you'll just be putting in
5 probably your Social Security number. It's
6 just a way of registering with them.

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: What impact will
8 this legislation have on anyone who decides to
9 become a cab driver after March 1 -- yes,
10 March 1, 2006? What impact does it have? Can
11 you -- are you grandfathered in with the other
12 people? What is the -- what happens?

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No. Anyone who
14 applies --

15 Excuse me. Excuse me one second. Yes,
16 just -- put it -- just hand it and people can
17 just hand it back. Have a seat a minute and
18 --

19 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: If I apply today to
20 get -- register a car in the District of
21 Columbia for a taxicab and I live in Prince
22 George's County, what impact does this

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1 legislation have on me?

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: The legislation
3 is only grandfathering anyone who had a DCTC
4 registered. In other words, you had a
5 registration with DMV as of March 1. If
6 you're a new applicant, you will have to
7 register your vehicle in your state and then
8 apply for your DCTC. So it's not --

9 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Because that's not
10 -- you know, it wasn't sounding clear, as the
11 legislation is written. So that's why I asked
12 what impact does it have?

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. I'm sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: On these new
15 vehicles that you just spoke of will have to
16 register in their state, does that mean
17 they're going to have two tags? Are they
18 going to have an H tag -- come to D.C. and
19 have a H tag plus their state tag?

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, you're
21 asking a good question, Mr. Tapscott.
22 Apparently there have been some vehicles that

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1 they have, about 14 or something, that a prior
2 chairperson had moved through that process,
3 that similar process. We as a commission will
4 need to talk about what it is that we want
5 those vehicles to have.

6 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Well, I want
7 those vehicles off with no D.C. -- with no H
8 tag on them. Because it's going to create a
9 problem.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I think I -- did
11 I catch everybody? I'm sorry, Singh. Could
12 you please -- I'm sorry, could you introduce
13 yourself, sir?

14 MR. SINGH: Okay. I'm Harvey Singh. I
15 drive Universal 363. I just wanted to know by
16 filling these tax forms do we have to pay
17 additional tax in addition to the income tax
18 that we already pay?

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: In the District?

20 MR. SINGH: In the District.

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I doubt it. I
22 doubt, if you're just a sole independent --

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1 and I don't want to be the person speaking on
2 tax issues, because I'm not the expert on
3 that.

4 But, in essence, what I would presume
5 that the people who have been living in the
6 District have been doing is that they file
7 taxes with their personal income tax. So I
8 wouldn't see that you would be paying two
9 taxes. So that's just my general conclusion
10 about it.

11 There is a number for you to call Office
12 of Tax and Revenue to ask, to get some
13 clarification. And we'll try to get some
14 clarification, you know, maybe just get a
15 couple -- we like -- I kind of like to do
16 these frequently asked questions kind of
17 documents, and we'll try to capture that
18 information for you so that everybody knows
19 it.

20 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: And on this form
21 that you have to get, you're saying the D.C.
22 residents are going to be included in that

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1 also?

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, it's just
3 an application form. It's not doing anything
4 to you. It's just -- you'll see when you look
5 at the form. In fact, the section where
6 someone has to say, "Do you currently have a
7 valid" is only applicable to out-of-state
8 people, because that's what the legislation
9 was applicable to.

10 So it's not placing any additional
11 burdens. I think in essence what has happened
12 over the years, there was no formal DCTC
13 application form. But it's not actually doing
14 anything more in terms of D.C. residents.

15 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: All right, what
16 about the new drivers coming in? I'm really
17 concerned about that. I thought that no new
18 drivers could come in after October -- I mean
19 March 1.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm not sure how
21 this --

22 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: And I'm also a

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1 little concerned about the license. Are the
2 District residents going to have to go down
3 and apply for a business license as well as
4 out-of-state people?

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Yes. Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: And what's the
7 price of that? What's -- how much is that
8 being charged?

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, what I
10 would certainly like to do is, as I mentioned,
11 O.T.R., they're the experts on this issue.
12 What we'd like to do is to capture all of
13 these questions and concerns and get answers
14 back out to the industry. Even though their
15 approach is just sort of, "Call us and we'll
16 answer the questions," we'll also try to
17 ensure that we capture the questions and get
18 them out to you.

19 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: What is this
20 business license going to cost? Do anybody
21 know?

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: The business

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1 license -- no. No, the forms that they're
2 referring to here, there's no cost associated
3 with the forms. There's no form -- now, keep
4 in mind in Mr. Graham's legislation, he
5 actually has a cost, okay, with --

6 No, he has \$100. If I recall, in the
7 legislation, it says \$100. It says "non-
8 resident taxi driver vehicle registration."
9 This has nothing to do with the tax forms now.

10 It says, "In addition to any fees that
11 may be due under any other statute or
12 regulation, a driver who was exempted from the
13 residency requirements to register a vehicle
14 within the District of Columbia under -- shall
15 be charged an additional fee of \$100." And
16 please excuse this document. You'll see it's
17 got little strange things here. It was
18 converted to Word.

19 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I'm
20 understanding that it says non-residents, and
21 I'm concerned about the residents.

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, and I just

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1 said, Mr. Tapscott, if it -- the way
2 legislation is, if it says it applies to non-
3 residents, then it doesn't apply --

4 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: It also applies
5 to residents.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, it -- no.
7 Whatever it says is what it says. You can't
8 then interpret it to apply to residents.

9 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Well, why does
10 the District have to go in? Why do the
11 District drivers have to do it anyway?

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No. No.
13 Normally, you go down there anyway. Right?

14 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: No.

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: To get your
16 DCTC?

17 No, no, no. You have to go and get your
18 vehicle inspected to get a DCTC, when you get
19 your DCTC renewed. If you're putting a new
20 vehicle on, what -- don't you have to go to
21 DMV?

22 No, no. No, no, no. No, no, no. This

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1 is DMV. Wherever you were applying for your
2 DCTC.

3 We're just trying to make sure you're
4 not going anywhere else. Just the same,
5 whatever the process that you've been going
6 through over the years.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm sorry. I
8 can't hear.

9 MR. WRIGHT: I have a new cab driver
10 now, and he finished everything, and now he
11 will be admitted, and they said this form they
12 give him, this form, he fills this one and
13 they take it to the Taxi Commission, and then
14 the other form to the 941.

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, and I
16 brought that to Lucinda's attention, that
17 somebody is saying on her staff take something
18 back here. So he's another one who's been
19 misdirected. We're not doing anything with
20 them.

21 No, he said to the Taxicab Commission.
22 He still may have to go to 941. Well, for the

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1 form. Yes. But he's not -- doesn't -- I'm
2 sorry. Just a little order here a minute.

3 He does not have to come here.

4 He has to go register with the Office of
5 Tax and Revenue. Okay.

6 You know what, when you said something
7 about North Capitol, everyone will have to
8 comply with the tax and revenue.

9 MR. WRIGHT: So everybody has to go to
10 -- if you drive a taxicab, you've got to go to
11 941.

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes.

13 MR. WRIGHT: So what do you pay when you
14 go to 941, if I live in D.C.?

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: You do not pay
16 anything when you go to 941. It's just a
17 registration.

18 The form is there. Take a look. But
19 you wouldn't be paying something at that
20 point. You wouldn't be paying anything.

21 One second, one second, a little order.
22 Mr. Baker.

1 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I just -- I have a
2 different line of questioning. This
3 legislation is primarily to try to address the
4 nonresident issue. And I notice that it's
5 temporary legislation and it expires in 225
6 days.

7 So I guess the question is, does Mr.
8 Graham, is he planning to work with the
9 Commission to find a permanent solution, or is
10 that just a legislative procedure for it to be
11 temporary at this point?

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, you know,
13 usually legislation that's emergency moves to
14 temporary and then moves to permanent, and
15 certainly we -- if we have some concerns about
16 language that's in it, we certainly can
17 communicate that to Mr. Graham's staff.

18 Ms. Travis?

19 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: I just want to
20 say, when we first initially started talking
21 about the grandfathering in, we were
22 concentrating primarily on those drivers who

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1 were already in the system that were about to
2 be kicked out of the system there, and I don't
3 think we fully addressed new drivers coming on
4 board, except that we just wanted to make sure
5 that whoever drove a cab in the District would
6 have an H tag. We were very staunch on that.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, that's --
8 the legislation pretty much does that. It's
9 ensuring that if you had an H tag on March 1
10 and you had a hack license --

11 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Right, for those
12 -- I understand that, for those who are
13 already in the system.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Now, as to new,
15 Mr. Tapscott mentioned the concern as to the
16 new person coming in, and Ms. Allen also asked
17 the question, as to new people who are coming
18 in who do not meet the qualifications of March
19 1, they will have to register their vehicle in
20 their state.

21 And essentially what they're bringing to
22 DMV is they're bringing their insurance One-

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1 Stop card, the inspection sheet, their
2 driver's license, their -- and their
3 registration card. So they actually -- our
4 concern, obviously, as Mr. Tapscott said, is
5 what exactly are -- will they be issued so
6 that we can identify them that they are in
7 fact authorized to operate as a public vehicle
8 in the District of Columbia?

9 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Right.

10 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Well, they're
11 going to have H tag.

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, I know, Mr.
13 Tapscott. I know you've raised the issue, and
14 we need to --

15 No, I'm actually, I thought I had
16 mentioned that, what we need to do now is to,
17 as a commission, is to meet with DMV and
18 discuss what it is that will now reflect that
19 DCTC on new vehicles that are coming in who do
20 not have the H tags any longer.

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: We've discussed it
22 at length that we wanted to continue to have

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1 an H tag so that -- and, I mean, at length and
2 for three or four meetings, so that we would
3 not have people authorized to drive a taxi in
4 the District of Columbia with their home state
5 tag.

6 So, I mean, there would be no way for us
7 to tell whether or not the cabs are out of the
8 surrounding jurisdictions were just coming and
9 picking up the fares that our cabs weren't.
10 And, Ms. Travis, we came up with a couple of
11 designs, I think for H tags. And we came up
12 with a small card for an H tag.

13 So I think, Madame Chair, you need to
14 look in the record and see what has been
15 already suggested for -- to identify the D.C.
16 cabs. Yes, everybody wants an H tag. But the
17 Department of Motor Vehicles said they were
18 not issuing any more. And so they were not
19 having any more made. So we need to go back
20 to them and have a conversation with what we
21 can do in order to --

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Exactly. That's

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1 what I said, that we need to talk with them
2 about what it is we want identified. And just
3 as a matter of moving the meeting along, if
4 you're about to say something that someone
5 else has said, I would really appreciate it --
6 I know everyone wants to be able to be heard.
7 Mr. Heinemann?

8 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: I understand
9 this to clarify that drivers are D.C.-based
10 businesses, and since DMV issues tags to D.C.-
11 based businesses, this should -- they should
12 be issuing H tags, just as they do for C tags,
13 commercial tags. I think that's my
14 understanding.

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm not sure
16 that I believe that because you're D.C.-based
17 or in a business they're going to do a C tag.

18 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: Well, but
19 that's -- that's the --

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Hold on one
21 second. One second. I think they're going to
22 continue to give with the H tag. I don't know

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1 that for a fact.

2 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: Right. That's
3 the thinking, because if you are a D.C.-based
4 business, you are eligible for the commercial
5 tag. If you're a D.C.-based business and
6 you're a taxicab person, you should be
7 eligible for an H tag. And I think that's
8 what this does.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Ms. Allen is
10 actually referring to the scenario where you
11 are out of state, that you, in essence are out
12 of state, and you did not have a registration
13 on March 1, 2006.

14 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: Oh, okay. Got
15 you.

16 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: How will that be
17 treated? Yes. Sir? You should have already
18 been paying sales tax or whatever that --
19 those documents are. You're a company that's
20 based in the District.

21 Sir, you know, I said there's a number
22 for you to also call, but if you're a company

1 -- one second. I can't hear. One second.
2 One second.

3 If you are a company in the District of
4 Columbia, you are D.C. based, okay, and you
5 would be paying taxes in the District, and you
6 should be filling out those forms anyway. So
7 that's the concept here. I'm sorry. Mr.
8 Bethea?

9 MR. BETHEA: Yes. There was a recent
10 article in The Washington Post that indicated
11 that 4,000 of the 6,500 DCTCs that are
12 currently registered in the District of
13 Columbia belong to drivers who are non-D.C.
14 residents, and, as this gentleman, the hotel
15 representative, commissioner indicated, this
16 is temporary registration, and it runs out at
17 a certain time.

18 My question is, since there is going to
19 be a charge of \$100 additional monies tagged
20 on to those 4,000 drivers, we currently now
21 are being assessed \$50 every time we renew our
22 31(c)'s. That is \$100 every renewal period.

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1 And it breaks down to \$325,000 that the city
2 is collecting every renewal period from
3 taxicab drivers.

4 So what we are getting now in this
5 legislation, it seems since it's emergency
6 legislation, is another tax on top of, or fee
7 on top of the fee that we're already paying,
8 because we're not getting anything for the
9 assessment dollars that we're already
10 spending.

11 And I'm trying to understand, since
12 4,000 of these drivers are forced to live in
13 Maryland and Virginia because they can't
14 afford to live in the District of Columbia,
15 how can we address this issue, or is this just
16 cast in stone because it's passed through the
17 emergency legislation. And are those numbers
18 correct, are those notes correct?

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bethea, the
20 numbers are probably somewhat accurate. I
21 mean, most of our drivers do not live in the
22 District. So, therefore, most of them are

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1 likely to live outside the District.

2 I actually have some exact figures, and
3 it's probably something on that order. So
4 that's accurate. This is legislation that Mr.
5 Graham's passed. And, in essence, you
6 certainly can also voice your concern with Mr.
7 Graham.

8 I want to catch a few more people. If
9 you've had a chance to talk, I wanted to make
10 sure I catch some other people who have not.
11 I'll be with you in a minute, Mr. Wright.

12 PARTICIPANT: As a company, we have a
13 Tax ID number, and we pay taxes. Why is
14 necessary now again we have to fill this form
15 as a company? I don't understand.

16 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: My suspicion is
17 it's actually the same form you're probably
18 filling out. I am not the expert on the
19 forms. The legislation actually says in the
20 legislation, "The owner of a vehicle prior to
21 registering the vehicle on or after the
22 effective date of the legislation but no later

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1 than September 20, 2007, register with the
2 Office of Tax and Revenue for business taxes
3 by completing a tax registration form." It's
4 written in the legislation.

5 But I'm pretty sure that if you've been
6 paying taxes here you are registered. So
7 that's all I'm getting at. If you've been
8 paying taxes in the District, I'm pretty sure
9 you are registered.

10 PARTICIPANT: I do understand, but you
11 say as a company you don't have to register
12 again, only according to this.

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, what I'm
14 basically saying is it's just a form that you
15 fill out. When you take it to the people
16 there, they'll probably say, "We already have
17 your information." It just says that.

18 You don't have to fill it out, I'm sure,
19 or you can go there and ask them for
20 clarification. But I'm pretty sure all it's
21 trying to identify is all the businesses,
22 because they're -- so, if you're already

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1 there, it's not -- there's no cost associated
2 with the form. It's just a registration form.
3 So if you're already there.

4 MR. WRIGHT: Are these individual
5 drivers or just companies?

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: It's everyone.
7 Everyone who's an owner -- everyone who's an
8 owner-operator. Certainly. As well as the
9 companies. I'm sorry. Mr. Bugg?

10 MR. BUGG: Yes, John Bugg, Washingtonian
11 No. 1. I'm concerned about the automobile
12 that I put on the street and had to put it
13 into Washingtonian's name. And I got the
14 note. I've got to pay the note, but it's in
15 -- the car belongs, actually, to
16 Washingtonian, you see?

17 Now, what happens now? Do I have to go
18 back downtown and take my car through
19 inspection, get some more tags? Because tags
20 is not transferable. And they are not in my
21 name. So now do I go back downtown and --

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Can I --

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1 MR. BUGG: Let me finish, please. Do I
2 have to go back downtown, get the car moved
3 around into my name and go back through
4 inspection, get some more tags, because
5 they're not transferable, and everything else
6 that goes along with this thing, plus go out
7 to Maryland and go to the DMV out there and do
8 whatever this thing here says. What do I do?
9 Because we didn't make the mess, now.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bugg, I was
11 actually --

12 MR. BUGG: No, no. Go ahead. Go ahead.
13 I was just wondering. Because we didn't make
14 this mess. And I have a concern, because it's
15 going to cost me.

16 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bugg. Do
17 you want me to answer?

18 MR. BUGG: Please do.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. That's up
20 to you. You say your car is already
21 registered in the District in a company. Now,
22 if you choose to take it out of a company,

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1 yes, you will have to go through that process.
2 But if it's already in the company it's going
3 to continue to be --

4 MR. BUGG: Is there anything that this
5 commission here can do, because we didn't make
6 this mess?

7 Is there anything this commission can do
8 to defray all of this thing here and rectify
9 this problem? Because this commission sat
10 right here and watched this thing come down on
11 us, and now it's a thing that somebody tells
12 me I got to spend a whole lot of money in
13 order to --

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm not sure --
15 if you're saying you want your car out of the
16 company that you --

17 MR. BUGG: No, no. Let me explain this.
18 When I -- when I put the car on the street, I
19 had just spent something like \$1,300 on that
20 last cab I had. So I said, "Well, I'm going
21 -- I've got to get a car if I'm going to keep
22 on paying my bills or whatever." So now when

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1 I get the car and go downtown, they say,
2 "You've got to put it in Washingtonian's
3 name." So I put it in Washingtonian's name.

4 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, they
5 couldn't have -- they wouldn't have told you
6 that. You chose to do that, Mr. Bugg.

7 MR. BUGG: Is there anything the
8 District government can do to defray this
9 cost?

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We'll pass that
11 on. I don't know, Mr. Bugg. I will pass that
12 on. The chairman's here. We will pass that
13 on to Mr. -- what you're basically, what Mr.
14 Bugg is asking is this.

15 People who decide to bring on a new
16 vehicle and placed it with a company, and now
17 with this legislation want to take the vehicle
18 out of the company and register it in their
19 name, first of all, this legislation will not
20 apply to you, because -- well, let me ask you
21 this Mr. Bugg. On March 1, 2006, did you have
22 a vehicle registered?

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1 MR. BUGG: Yes, I had a vehicle
2 registered, but --

3 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Then you -- then
4 --

5 MR. BUGG: -- I couldn't keep on putting
6 money into this thing.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, no, no. Let
8 me finish. You probably -- and I don't -- you
9 know, you see the list of stuff you need to go
10 through? You were probably one of the people
11 who will not have to go back to Maryland and
12 register the vehicle, because it's
13 grandfathering. It says if you had a vehicle
14 registered on March 1, 2006.

15 So even though you brought your vehicle
16 on, new vehicle, and had it registered on the
17 capitol, if you had a vehicle registered on
18 March 1, 2006. So your scenario probably
19 allows you to go and be under this
20 legislation, so you don't have to go to
21 Maryland to do it.

22 MR. BUGG: Okay. Could you find out for

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1 sure, please?

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, you know
3 what? I -- no, it's not that I can find out
4 for sure. I'm saying your -- each person's
5 scenario is different. So all I'm saying is,
6 you've got to take a look at the documents
7 I've shared with you, and it has a number of
8 questions it's asking you.

9 MR. BUGG: No disrespect to you, lady,
10 but I'd just like to find out one thing.
11 Where do I go if I don't come to this
12 commission?

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: You go to DMV.
14 DMV.

15 MR. BUGG: They don't know anything.
16 I've been down -- you mean 95 M Street?

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Wherever you've
18 been registering your DCTC, getting your DCTC
19 before. Wherever you've been registering your
20 vehicle, that's where you go.

21 MR. BUGG: Okay.

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Now, we an work

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1 with them to make sure that whatever the
2 concerns you're expressing, because to the
3 extent that the gentlemen in the back said
4 they were sending somebody back here, and I
5 brought this to Lucinda's attention yesterday,
6 that they were sending people back here when
7 they shouldn't. So we will work with them to
8 make sure that you are able to go through this
9 process smoothly.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who is Lucinda?

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Lucinda Babers.
12 She's the head of DMV.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Acting. Acting.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: She's the head
15 of -- one second. Let me get the
16 commissioners. I know Mr. Wright and Mr.
17 Chubbs had their hands up. Mr. Tapscott?

18 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes, I just
19 wanted to clear something, clarify something
20 that was said, that the commissioners sat here
21 and let this happen. That is not true. This
22 commission did not know anything about this.

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1 This law was passed in 1999, wasn't put
2 in effect until 2001. And DMV notified the
3 commissions a day before it went in effect.
4 We went downtown, quite a few of us, to fight
5 this. So we did not, the commission did not
6 know anything about this before it happened.
7 We all got into the same boat at the same
8 time.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you. Mr.
10 Baker?

11 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes --

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Could you crack
13 the door a little bit? I'm sorry. I was
14 trying to get someone's attention.

15 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Madame Chair, I
16 recognize that there are other people who are
17 waiting to speak, but I know that we have
18 commissioners who are leaving in about 30
19 minutes or less. We have other items on the
20 agenda.

21 We are not fully informed about the law.
22 I would suggest that we table further

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1 conversation, that we either have someone from
2 DMV at our next meeting.

3 We also have a meeting scheduled with
4 Mr. Graham to get some further clarification
5 about the temporary basis and how he expects
6 to go forward, and that we -- and that the
7 commission probably has an obligation to
8 develop a Q&A so that people who have
9 questions about it, that we can give them some
10 accurate answers.

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: And, as I
12 indicated, we certainly will do the Q&A. And
13 I actually think not only DMV. We'll also try
14 to make sure we have people from Tax and
15 Revenue. So I think it's -- if the points you
16 were making, I apologize, were directed at
17 that, or you had some questions, I think that
18 in order for us to move the meeting along, and
19 I understand this is very, very important --

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You ought to have
21 a special meeting.

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, I think

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1 we're just going to have to have a special
2 meeting on it. And, you know, I understand,
3 the agencies are trying to plow through this,
4 as well. So, because, you know, when you do
5 emergency legislation, all of a sudden it's on
6 you. And I might also say that we looked at
7 the legislation before it was enacted and this
8 -- these were not the provisions that were in
9 it.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So this -- and
12 I'm sure you did the same thing. So in some
13 ways it's like a moving target. It has caught
14 us a little off guard.

15 We've spent a lot of time trying to get
16 a handle around it, and just trying to get you
17 something today so that you can have something
18 you can focus on was one of the things I was
19 trying to do. So I think that's an excellent
20 suggestion, Mr. Baker, because we do have some
21 other items that we really do need to address.
22 So I apologize. I know Mr. -- Ah shh. One

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1 second, please.

2 MR. CHUBBS: Chairman Thompson, I did
3 have my hand up. That was going to be my
4 suggestion, because nobody really knows. We
5 need to get some specifics.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, and
7 everyone --

8 MR. CHUBBS: Move out.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Exactly. And
10 then everyone can ask -- you're absolutely
11 right. And can ask their specific questions
12 about their scenarios. So I appreciate that,
13 Mr. Rudder, I understand that. You had your
14 hand up, as well. I do apologize.

15 But we have another issue on the agenda
16 that we really need to touch on, and that has
17 to do with the release of the report analyzing
18 meter fare and zone fares. And basically what
19 we're doing here today is the commissioners
20 have gotten a final copy of this document.

21 I know you do not have a copy. Because
22 what we're going through right here is the

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1 procedure where the commissioners make a
2 decision as to whether to release the report
3 and whether they want to make modifications on
4 it. It's just a formal process, Mr. Rudder.
5 It's not a question of like, "Oh, my God,
6 you're not going to release a report."

7 It's actually just the process, because
8 we are open meeting, that's how we operate.
9 So, in essence, what has happened, for those
10 who aren't familiar with this, is that back in
11 2005, out of the Mayor's Office of Economic
12 Development, then Mayor Williams, there was a
13 report where -- I should say a project --
14 where taxicabs were outfitted with meters, and
15 at the same time they were given -- they had
16 to charge the zone fare, but they recorded the
17 receipts, etc., from that project, and then it
18 was analyzed by some public administration
19 students at GW University.

20 So what we're doing here today
21 essentially is the commission going on record
22 in terms of expressing their concerns, their

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1 decisions in terms of this report. One of the
2 concerns that the commissioners, some
3 commissioners raised, this was a report that
4 came out of the, the project, I should say,
5 that came out of the Office of Economic
6 Development.

7 A number of commissioners felt that it
8 actually was not a project that was initiated
9 at the commission. We have put together an
10 introductory page to capture that concern.
11 And today I would like the commissioners to
12 essentially vote on this decision to release
13 this report, to release it with whatever
14 qualifications they would like to place in the
15 introductory page.

16 That's all we're doing today. If the
17 decision is to release the report, we will
18 then get copies of the report and make it
19 available to everyone. So that's -- I hope
20 I've introduced -- explained exactly what
21 we're doing. So any comments from the
22 commissioners? Mr. Tapscott?

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1 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I know
2 everybody's going to look at me like I'm
3 crazy, and I'm crazy. As far as I'm
4 concerned, the way this report was put
5 together, how it was put together and who it
6 was put together, it was not put together by
7 this commission. It needs to go in the trash
8 can.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Any other
10 comments?

11 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Can we introduce it
12 to the public? It's a public document. They
13 should be -- they should have the right to see
14 whether it was good or bad.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Freedom of
16 Information Act.

17 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Yes. Because it's
18 part of their money, too, in this. I think it
19 should be released to the public, definitely.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Any other
21 comments? Mr. Heinemann, and then Mr. Baker?

22 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: I think it

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1 should be released, and then you'll -- once
2 you guys see it, you'll see one of the things
3 that we've been wrestling with is to see if
4 you actually have, if we were presented with a
5 decision to go to meters, if there was a way
6 to make sure that on the most frequent number
7 of trips that cab drivers take, which it
8 appears to be in the one and a half mile to
9 three mile zone, that you structure the meter
10 fare to be as close to equal if not a little
11 bit better than the zone fare. Because what
12 we wanted to avoid was having a meter rate set
13 so low that on most of your common trips that
14 you guys do, there would be a significant
15 revenue loss.

16 And so what you'll see, it's very
17 important that you look in the back through a
18 number of scenarios, where you adjust the drop
19 rate and the per sixth of mile rate so you can
20 see some of the things that we have
21 deliberated over the last, I would say, six to
22 seven months, or probably even longer than

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1 that, sometimes sending it back and saying
2 what if you increased it, what if you
3 increased it, what if you increased it? So
4 take a look at it, and I think we'd look
5 forward to the public comment period.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Baker?

7 COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes. I think the
8 report should be released, obviously. I guess
9 just a technical question. It in part
10 addresses Mr. Tapscott's concern.

11 And I know that the introduction that's
12 been written that you were trying to
13 acknowledge that there was concern about the
14 way the report had been conducted and whether
15 the commission had full participation in it.

16 And as I'm paying more attention to it
17 now, I guess the concern that I have is how
18 the introduction is framed that makes it
19 appear, because of our signatures, that it's
20 fully a report of the Commission.

21 And I guess the question that I would
22 have is, one, do we need an introduction at

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1 all, or could it just be shorter with an
2 explanation of what this report is? And then
3 secondly, does the signature of the Commission
4 convey something more than what it is, and
5 should it just be no signatures or something
6 like that?

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thanks, Mr.
8 Baker. You know, just so the public
9 understands, when we're talking about this
10 introduction, let me just read it quickly. I
11 think it would be helpful.

12 It starts by saying, "The purpose of the
13 Taxicab Information Project was to determine
14 the impact on passenger costs and driver
15 income if the District were to require the use
16 of time and distance meters rather than the
17 zone system to compute taxicab fares."

18 And the short term for this project is
19 called TIP, Taxicab Information Project, "was
20 based on a report by then Mayor Anthony
21 Williams' Task Force on Taxicab Reform, which
22 recommended changes to the structure of the

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1 D.C. taxicab system."

2 And by the way, I'm -- this is sort of
3 historical information that I've pulled,
4 because I was not here at the initiation of
5 this. "Primary responsibility for this
6 project rested with the Office of the Deputy
7 Mayor for Planning and Economic Development.

8 "With the appointment of Causton A.
9 Toney, a member of the staff of the Office of
10 Economic Development, to the position of
11 Chairperson of the D.C. Taxicab Commission,
12 the project was continued from the offices of
13 the D.C. Taxicab Commission. Partners in this
14 project included taxicab drivers, taxicab
15 companies and the George Washington
16 University.

17 "While some members -- some commission
18 members have expressed concern that they were
19 not consulted on the initiation and the scope
20 of this project, nevertheless the Commission
21 believes that, to the extent the issue of
22 meters is squarely before the Commission for

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1 its recommendation to -- a typo -- to Mayor
2 Adrian Fenty, the TIP Report should be
3 disseminated to the public and become part of
4 the record that the Commission examines in its
5 deliberations on this issue.

6 "Accordingly, the Commission wishes to
7 encourage the public to review this report,
8 specifically the key findings, which appear on
9 page 14 of the report, and the analysis of the
10 impact on driver income, which appears in
11 Appendix 1, beginning on page 17 of the
12 report."

13 And then it just refers you to other key
14 findings that are elsewhere in the report.
15 And then it just thanks the people who
16 participated, the drivers and the students and
17 the professors at GW. And it then has at the
18 bottom the names of the commissioners.

19 So just so you can understand what this
20 discussion is. Whether in fact it needs an
21 introduction, whether it needs to have the
22 commissioner's name is another question. And

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1 so we can continue this discussion here for --
2 Ms. Travis?

3 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Yes, I'm - this is
4 to Mr. Baker and Mr. Tapscott. Because first
5 place, even the introduction, the primary
6 purpose, when we started out what the
7 commissioners asked for was an analysis
8 between the differences, a comparison between
9 the zone meter and the time and distance
10 meter.

11 The secondary part of that was the
12 income of the drivers. That came along later.
13 But the primary purpose of the study that we
14 asked for was to determine the difference as
15 in fares between the time and distance meters
16 and the zone fare calculator. So the whole
17 thing just went --

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second. One
19 second. One second, Mr. Bethea. I would like
20 the commissioners to initially have an
21 opportunity to talk, and then I'll take some
22 comments from the public, a limited number,

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1 however, because I -- it's not an issue of
2 discussing zones versus meters. It's only an
3 issue of some process in terms of this report.
4 We will have subsequent meetings focused on
5 zones versus meters.

6 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Madame Chair, you
7 read that statement there, and now you're
8 saying it's not, it's just between time and
9 distance meters. But when you talk about the
10 purpose of that report, to me the report is
11 not saying what our original request was for.

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, I understand
13 that. I hope I wasn't saying something that
14 was saying something.

15 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Yes, right.

16 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm actually
17 saying something to the public, who where
18 people have some -- would want to speak on
19 zones versus meters, I'm trying to keep
20 everybody focused that we're actually just
21 talking about releasing a report.

22 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: We were talking --

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1 right. But we're talking about that. But I'm
2 just saying your introductory page does not
3 reflect --

4 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: What you're
5 suggesting is that the portion that says --

6 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: I'd like to see
7 that introductory page, please.

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: The portion that
9 says, "While some commission members have
10 expressed concern that they were not consulted
11 on the initiation and scope of this project,"
12 you'd like to see something inserted there
13 saying what it is that you were concerned
14 with, the commissioners. Is that what I'm
15 understanding?

16 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: And just the
17 introductory statement, yes.

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: I just don't
20 like the introductory statement.

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Tapscott?

22 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Yes. Everybody

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1 might not know, the task force that was set up
2 by the mayor --

3 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Tapscott,
4 sorry, I don't want to lose too many people,
5 so I'll thank you if you can do it a little
6 briefly, I'd appreciate it.

7 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: The task force
8 that was set up by the mayor, I happened to be
9 a member of that. It was about six or seven
10 people set up on the task force. I have a
11 document about that thick that the task force
12 went through.

13 There was nothing in the document that
14 Causton Toney, gave Causton Toney the right to
15 set this study up. This is strictly Causton
16 Toney's idea. He cut the commissioners out of
17 it completely, and nowhere in the task force,
18 and I have a copy of it, that they recommend
19 this kind of study.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Ms.
21 Allen?

22 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay, the only

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1 thing that I'd like to say --

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second.
3 Now, Mr. Tapscott, what we could do, you know,
4 is make sure that part about saying it's
5 recommended or anything that implies that is
6 taken out of the introduction, because it
7 actually doesn't say the study. It just kind
8 of says it was based on a report that
9 recommended changes to the structure.

10 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: But the TIP
11 report that we did, the study, had nothing to
12 do with that part of it.

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, I
14 understand.

15 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: That's what I'm
16 trying to say.

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, I do
18 understand that.

19 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I wanted to go back
20 to Mr. Baker and say, first of all, we don't
21 need this introductory page, and I really feel
22 that with all the discrepancies amongst

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1 ourselves, that our names do not need to be
2 listed. It sounds like we are in agreement,
3 and the people in --

4 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: -- in the public
5 will be furious with folks who did not agree.
6 So, Ms. Thompson, if you'd like to put your
7 name on it, it's fine. I do not want to be
8 listed.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Thank you. You
10 struggle with the people who say they want
11 something and the ones who don't, and
12 essentially it's a democracy. Everybody has
13 one vote up here. So people, in essence, can
14 get to make that decision. So it sounds --
15 I'd like Mr. -- I'm sorry, Mr. Pahwa?

16 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Can you just put
17 the report in the Office of the Taxicab and
18 just release to the public? Let them decide
19 what's going on. Let them have the
20 opportunity. They're the ones. It's their
21 business, their business either hurting or
22 not. You should let them decide it. We

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1 should be more coming to the public.

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Fine. Thank
3 you, Mr. --

4 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: So move it.

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Well,
6 before I do --

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: With the
8 amendment.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I agree. I'd
10 like to take probably about three or so
11 comments from the public, and --

12 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I'm actually trying
13 to save your vote.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: What I'm trying
15 to avoid is the issue where the public says
16 we're voting without hearing something from
17 them. That's all I was trying to say. So,
18 Mr. Carter, if you --

19 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: But what we're
20 voting on is -- excuse me, Madame Chair, but
21 all we're voting on is whether or not we're
22 going to release the document, and they have

1 an opportunity --

2 They have an opportunity later on in the
3 process to come back to us with their
4 questions and concerns. The vote is not on
5 whether the report's any good. It is on
6 whether or not we're going to release it.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: And I think I
8 said that, and I see hands up, and so in
9 essence -- I'm glad somebody else has said it
10 -- so, in essence, we will take a vote.

11 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I'd like to move
12 that we --

13 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I make a motion
14 that this report be released to the public.

15 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I'd like to move --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I second it.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: As amended. You --
18 I was already speaking, Mr. Tapscott.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: As amended, with
20 the names --

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: As amended, without
22 the introduction.

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1 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I don't have no
2 problem with that.

3 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay, I was
4 speaking, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I know you were,
6 but she gave me the right to speak.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second. One
8 second. One second, one second. Mr. King,
9 Mr. King, Mr. King. Some order. Mr.
10 Tapscott?

11 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Shouldn't this
12 thing be without the endorsement.

13 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I said that without
14 the introduction.

15 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I didn't hear
16 that part.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay, and that's
18 what I was saying. I wanted to amend it to
19 say without the introduction.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One -- one --
21 just a second. Just a second.

22 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Let me withdraw

1 my motion and Ms. Allen - hear what she wants,
2 please.

3 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Yes. Yes.
4 Thank you. Ms. Allen, go ahead, please.

5 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Thank you. I'd
6 like to move that the report be given to the
7 public, released to the public, without the
8 introduction and the signatures of the
9 commissioners.

10 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: I second it.

11 MR. WRIGHT: You should say endorsement,
12 because without the signatures -- you can
13 still be endorsing without the signatures.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

15 MR. WRIGHT: You need to say without
16 endorsement if you're not endorsing.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Without the
18 introduction you don't have anything.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You don't have
20 any endorsement.

21 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: You don't have
22 anything.

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Office of
2 Taxicabs is going to say that you all are
3 responsible. That's what he's saying.

4 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. There's a
5 motion on the floor. I'll tell you this. I
6 think at this point whatever we --

7 COMMISSIONER CARTER: Excuse me. Ma'am,
8 may I add a friendly amendment? I'd like to
9 add a non-endorsement amendment to Ms. Allen,
10 if she'll accept that as a friendly amendment.

11 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I accept it.

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We're going to
13 vote on this motion.

14 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay.

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I'm afraid to
16 repeat it.

17 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: As amended.

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So any
19 discussion?

20 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I would not vote in
21 favor of the second amendment. I think it --
22 the commission -- I mean, we either should

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1 just reject the report and throw it in the
2 trash and not release it, but I don't believe
3 that we issue a report which was paid for by
4 this commission and say that we don't endorse
5 it.

6 It is a slap in the face of the students
7 and the staff at George Washington that did
8 it. And I think that to then impugn their
9 work, which saying a non-endorsement would do,
10 is not fair to them.

11 If we don't want the report released, if
12 we don't support it, then just don't release
13 it. But don't issue a report that says we
14 don't endorse it, that implies that those
15 people didn't do what they were asked to do.
16 That's just not fair. And I just -- so I
17 think that we -- I mean, we had -- I support
18 the original amendment that we simply release
19 it. It is what it is.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes --

21 COMMISSIONER BAKER: But to then add in
22 that we don't endorse it, I just think that

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1 goes too far.

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Let's
3 vote on -- any other --

4 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Just one
5 correction. This commission did not pay for
6 this report. I want that be known to the
7 public. Our commission did not pay the -- we
8 don't know who paid for it, where the money
9 came from.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Assessment fund.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It came out of
12 the assessment fund.

13 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, it did not.
14 No, it did not. No, it did not. Let me make
15 that very clear. It did not. It came from
16 the Office of Economic Development. It did not
17 come from the -- it's the Mayor's Office. It
18 did not come from the assessment fund.

19 I'd like to -- what my understanding is,
20 in essence, we are not placing an introduction
21 in the document.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You're not

1 endorsing it.

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We're just not
3 placing an introduction. To the extent we
4 don't place an introduction, there is nothing
5 endorsing it. But you would then have to
6 place something in it that says we don't
7 endorse it. That's all I'm trying to draw the
8 distinction.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So -- no, no,
11 no. No, no. I'm just getting some
12 clarification. If you remove the
13 introduction, you in essence are just
14 releasing a report. If you -- you would have
15 to place something in it that says the
16 commission does not endorse the report to
17 actually have something that says it's not.

18 MR. WRIGHT: That was the motion.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, no, I do
20 understand, Mr. Wright. I just want to make
21 sure Ms. Allen understands that we are -- when
22 we say take out, we're going to have to say

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1 something about that we don't endorse it would
2 have to show up.

3 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Okay, the motion is
4 on the floor, Madame Chair, whether you voted
5 up or down.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, this is just
7 clarification. That's just clarification.
8 Okay? That in essence to say you don't
9 endorse it -- yes.

10 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: I mean, this is
11 an informational -- my opinion, this is an
12 informational piece, because we do have to
13 deliberate this over the next couple of
14 months. Because don't we have a
15 recommendation to provide by, what, September
16 30?

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Sure.

18 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: So, I mean,
19 endorsement or not, we've got to get this out.
20 So --

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, I think --
22 let's cut off the discussion then. Okay, Ms.

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1 - Carolyn. One second. Okay. Let's take a
2 vote. The -- and I'm just making that point
3 clear that in order to say you don't endorse
4 it you'll have to put something on it that
5 says you don't endorse it.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So what's --
7 what's --

8 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: The motion?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. I mean --

10 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: What the motion is?

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, that's the
12 motion.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The motion is
14 without the --

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Introduction.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- without the
17 introduction, but now you're saying that we
18 have to have some language of non-endorsement?

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That's what the
20 motion is saying.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what the
22 motion is saying.

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1 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: That's what the
2 motion said.

3 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That's what her
4 motion said.

5 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Without
6 endorsement.

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Without
8 endorsement.

9 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I'm accepting it as
10 a friendly amendment from Mr. Carter that it
11 would say that the commission did not endorse
12 it.

13 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: I don't know
14 what that means, but --

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So let's vote on
16 that motion, which is you take out the
17 introduction and you place something that says
18 the commission doesn't endorse it. That's the
19 motion. All in favor?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Opposed?
2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Opposed?
3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are you voting?
6 He's abstaining.
7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Roll call.
8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's abstaining.
9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Roll call.
10 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
11 Allen?
12 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Yes.
13 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
14 Baker?
15 COMMISSIONER BAKER: No.
16 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
17 Carter?
18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Absent.
19 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
20 Heinemann?
21 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: No.
22 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner

1 Pahwa?

2 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: No.

3 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
4 Tapscott?

5 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: No.

6 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
7 Travis?

8 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Yes on the motion.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm confused.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second. One
11 second. One second. One second. One -- just
12 -- Mr. --

13 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: He said no. Pahwa
14 said no. Tapscott said no.

15 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Should we
16 retake the vote for clarification on what
17 we're voting on?

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: It's just Mr.
19 Tapscott.

20 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: We need to
21 understand. I mean, I want to release the
22 thing.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: My vote against
3 this is not to prevent the release. This
4 thing should go out.

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Heinemann,
6 it's not -- what's on the floor has nothing --
7 it's not anyone trying to not release the
8 report.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: It's just about
11 whether -- this is the motion -- you remove
12 the introduction. You're going to have to
13 insert something in it that says we do not
14 endorse it.

15 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: I don't know
16 what that means. I don't know what the
17 purpose of that is.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That's a
20 different issue. So you get to vote yes or
21 no.

22 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: So that's why I

1 voted no.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

3 COMMISSIONER HEINEMANN: But, I mean, it
4 doesn't make any sense.

5 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That's fine.
6 That's fine. That's fine. We have Mr. Baker
7 saying no.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We have Mr.
10 Heinemann saying no. Mr. Tapscott wants to
11 change his vote to yes. Ms. Travis? Mr.
12 Pahwa?

13 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
14 Travis?

15 COMMISSIONER TRAVIS: Yes.

16 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
17 Allen?

18 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: I voted yes.

19 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: Commissioner
20 Thompson?

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No.

22 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: That's four no,

1 three yes.

2 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: We have four
3 nos and three yeses.

4 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: So the amendment
5 fails.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Madame
7 Commissioner?

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. -- yes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Amendment fails.

10 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Fails. Yes.
11 Mr. Baker?

12 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I'll yield to Ms.
13 Allen.

14 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: Since that one
15 failed, I'd like to move that we release the
16 report without the introduction.

17 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I'll second it.

18 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: All those in
19 favor?

20 (Chorus of ayes.)

21 GENERAL COUNSEL ALEXANDER: The motion
22 passes. The introduction will be communicated

1 and distributed to the public.

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay -- go
3 ahead. One second, Mr. Pahwa. One second.
4 One second. One second. Mr. Pahwa.

5 COMMISSIONER PAHWA: Yes.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER ALLEN: The question is
8 that one of the things that can be stamped on
9 a report is that it's a draft, or something to
10 let it know that we do not approve it. That
11 was -- it's got to do something. All right?
12 But that's something. And maybe we could talk
13 about that in an administrative meeting.

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That'll have to
15 -- maybe that'll have to be motioned again.

16 COMMISSIONER BAKER: I just think we're
17 drawing more attention to the report by
18 whether we accept it, whether we endorse it.
19 There's going to be a lot of things out there
20 in the universe that we're going to have to
21 consider in order to make a recommendation to
22 the Mayor.

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1 This is one of them. It is not the
2 definitive recommendation. It's nothing more
3 than what it is. It's a study that a group at
4 GW did. And I don't think we need to further
5 comment on it.

6 We didn't even pay for it. It's been
7 released. It's out there. People can see it
8 for what it is. And that's it. And, but this
9 going back and forth on whether we -- you
10 know, it's just -- let it go.

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second. One
12 second. Mr. Tapscott?

13 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I almost lost my
14 thoughts. I agree with Mr. Baker in a sense.
15 Why do we need this report? Who says that
16 this commission has to endorse anything to
17 send to the Mayor? Who came up with that
18 idea? Why do we have to send anything from
19 this commission to the Mayor?

20 I don't see where it's any law or
21 anything that we have to endorse anything to
22 send to the Mayor. If we were going to send

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1 anything to the Mayor, endorsement, we have a
2 folder that this commission paid for over
3 \$200,000, I understand, that said and did a
4 lot more than this report. Why don't we use
5 that report if we're going to come up with
6 something to recommend to the Mayor?

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: I would actually
8 -- let me clarify. This is not a report that
9 is going to the Mayor necessarily. The
10 Commission makes a decision as to what it
11 sends to the mayor. It's just releasing the
12 report. And I think we've voted to release
13 it.

14 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: I understand
15 that.

16 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We voted to
17 release it. So we need to -- we'll be here
18 forever on this. One second. One second.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Release it to
20 who?

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: One second.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Meaning --

1 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Excuse me. I'm
2 sorry, Mr. --

3 MR. CHUBBS: Chubbs.

4 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Chubbs. Release
5 it publicly.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Publicly. That's
7 all it says.

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Publicly. Yes.
9 Okay. That's all it is. Release it publicly.
10 So that if you wanted to get a copy and take a
11 look at it going forward from today we will
12 have the report reproduced. We will have the
13 report online so that you can take a look at
14 it. That's all the decision's doing here
15 today.

16 I'm going to take a couple questions and
17 that's -- I know, Mr. Chubbs, you've had your
18 hand up for quite some time. And, again, if
19 the discussion is about meters versus zones,
20 we're going to have a special meeting so that
21 we can have that discussion, because obviously
22 people want to speak on that issue. Okay?

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1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just one
2 question.

3 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes.

4 MR. CHUBBS: How soon can we get copies
5 so we can read and make our own decision or
6 have questions when you have --

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: In fact, what we
8 hope to do is to actually by tomorrow --
9 actually what we're talking about is just
10 reproducing at Kinko's. You know, it's going
11 to Kinko's and getting the document reproduced
12 en masse so that people can have copies and
13 letting people know.

14 MR. CHUBB: By Monday.

15 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Oh, definitely.

16 MR. CHUBB: Okay.

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Most definitely.
18 Oh, I'm sorry -- we have an issue that we need
19 to have dealt with, and that's why we need to
20 cut this off. Mr. Bethea had an item he
21 wanted to place on the agenda today, and our
22 regulations allow people to do that, and so,

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1 Mr. Bethea?

2 MR. BETHEA: Yes. Before I address the
3 other issue that I'm having placed on the
4 agenda, there is another issue. HR 3508 has
5 not gone any place, and I understand that this
6 vote today simply states that you will release
7 the report, but HR 3508 was the bill sponsored
8 by Senator Carl Levin from Michigan, which has
9 passed the House and the Senate as a rider to
10 our 2007 appropriations budget.

11 And the Commission has not had any
12 discussion in any of the formal meetings that
13 you've had about what your position is going
14 to be on HR 3508. So this discussion about
15 the study becomes a new issue, because come
16 October 31, if Mayor Fenty does not issue an
17 executive order, we will have meters.

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: As I said, we
19 will be having meetings on this issue, Mr.
20 Bethea. I'm not sure that we're communicating
21 here. We are going to have --

22 MR. BETHEA: I understand that.

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1 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Yes.
2 Well, Mr. Bethea, I do need you to present the
3 issue that you're here to discuss.

4 MR. BETHEA: That's fine. Good morning,
5 afternoon, I guess, to the fellow taxicab
6 drivers, independent owner-operators, cab
7 company owners and to the Commission. My name
8 is Ronald K. Bethea. I am president of Sedan
9 Service Plus. We are a non-profit 501(c)(3)
10 group that advocates for taxicab drivers,
11 limousine drivers, limousine companies and
12 taxicab companies and taxicab drivers.

13 The issue that I've requested to be put
14 on the Commission today is that a petition be
15 placed to put a permanent moratorium on the
16 number of taxicab vehicles, with the exception
17 of wheelchair-accessible vehicles, because the
18 industry we have none at the present time, and
19 that everybody be grandfathered in, and that
20 the motion be sent to the Council for
21 consideration as a proposal to put, as I said,
22 a permanent cap, grandfather in all 6,500

1 taxicabs, and that the D.C. Council starts
2 each DCTC off with the value of \$200,000 for
3 each driver that owns his own DCTC so that the
4 companies and the individual drivers will be
5 able to go to the bank and guarantee bank
6 loans, so they will be able to purchase new
7 vehicles and wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

8 I'd like to read a letter into the
9 record that I've written to the Honorable
10 Eleanor Holmes Norton which will address all
11 these issues. The letter is dated 5/7/07. I
12 emailed that to you, Ms. Thompson. I think
13 that you in fact did send the email out to all
14 of the other commissioners.

15 There was also a link that dealt with
16 the issue of the fair taxicab regulations,
17 which I hope that some of the commissioners
18 had an opportunity to go online and look at
19 that documentary. It was produced by North
20 Carolina State University. It's a ten-minute
21 video that promotes fair taxicab regulations.
22 And that documentary speaks to the issues of a

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1 number of the problems that exist inside our
2 industry here.

3 The letter that I have dated 5/7/07, to
4 the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, District
5 Delegate, reference the FTA Department of
6 Transportation New Freedom Program, the D.C.
7 government 5310 Grant Program.

8 "Dear Delegate Norton: I'm writing you
9 in concern of an urgent need to obtain your
10 support in your office in helping us to get
11 \$20 million from the New Freedom Project,
12 which has \$81 million for `07, \$87.5 million
13 for `08, \$92.5 million for 2009.

14 "A total of \$339 million in grant
15 million will be released within the Department
16 of Transportation. These monies are needed to
17 be targeted for the D.C. taxicab industry to
18 provide financial subsidies and incentives
19 necessary to encourage the taxicab industry in
20 the District to provide and maintain the
21 necessary, to encourage the taxicab industry
22 in the District of Columbia to provide and

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1 maintain significant supply of accessible
2 taxicab services to the citizens of the
3 District of Columbia and the disabled guests
4 that come to our nation's capitol.

5 "The incentives directed to the
6 companies include subsidies to offset the cost
7 of vehicle purchase, maintenance or insurance.
8 For example, the city of Chicago made a
9 million dollars available to cab companies to
10 defray the incremental cost for accessible
11 ramp and purchase four Victorias.

12 "To have an impact the program would
13 need to include financial incentives, with
14 extensive sensitivity training for drivers
15 such as stipends for lost fares and incentives
16 for drivers to drive accessible taxis,
17 subsidies for marketing and advertising the
18 services for the cab companies in the local
19 market area.

20 "Delegate Norton and I recently met with
21 Ms. Wendy Klancher, Senior Transportation
22 Planner for the D.C. Council of Governments,

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1 and Mr. Gilbert Williams, program manager for
2 the D.C. government Department of
3 Transportation grant program. Both agencies
4 only have \$1.5 million, and these funds are on
5 a non-profit on a competitive basis.

6 "Also my organizational recently
7 completed a four-week phone bank in which we
8 contacted all 108 cab companies registered
9 with the D.C. Taxicab Commission. I spoke
10 with 59 owners. Thirteen agreed to
11 participate in a program.

12 "I have attached a copy of a spreadsheet
13 with all the costs, with the projections
14 totaling \$6,040,000 to purchase the vehicles
15 only. These vehicles start off the purchase
16 price of \$40,000."

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Excuse me. Just
18 keep it brief.

19 MR. BETHEA: I'm going to summarize this
20 here very quickly.

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Yes,
22 please. Well, we've been at it for the last

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1 five minutes now.

2 MR. BETHEA: "Last year -- last year my
3 organization, in cooperation with the Small
4 Business Development Center at the University
5 of the District of Columbia, launched an
6 upward mobility taxicab and limousine program.

7 "We were successful in getting local
8 manufacturer representatives to provide the
9 financing to pay for the advertising program
10 for six weeks on WOL. Mr. Calvin Johnson,
11 Executive Director of the Small Business
12 Development Center, UDC, informed me that 125
13 drivers responded to the ad campaign.

14 "Their concerns were how were they going
15 to generate business and the high cost of the
16 general liability insurance. Because they do
17 not -- because they have to state an income to
18 show enough income to pay back a \$40,000 bank
19 loan and a 10 percent down and pay taxes on
20 money that they do not enter, not one driver
21 has used the program. Delegate Norton, I
22 recently met with owners who are members of

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1 the Washington" --

2 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bethea. Mr.
3 Bethea. Mr. Bethea. One option -- I know
4 that what you're emphasizing is the moratorium
5 on the number of --

6 MR. BETHEA: Yes, that's what I'm
7 getting to here.

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes, but if you
9 could get to that point.

10 MR. BETHEA: Well, I'm getting to that
11 right now. "Delegate Norton, I recently met
12 with the owners who are members of the
13 Washington Taxicab and Sedan Owners
14 Association.

15 "Almost 98 percent of the owners and
16 drivers that I have spoken with during my
17 recent phone bank want the D.C. Taxicab
18 Commission and the Council and the Mayor to
19 put a permanent cap on taxicabs in the
20 District of Columbia and move quickly to a
21 medallion system, which would give companies
22 and drivers the ability to guarantee bank

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1 loans.

2 "The D.C. taxicab industry is in
3 financial turmoil because the D.C. government
4 has maintained the only open cab system in the
5 nation. Ms. Thompson, the acting D.C. Taxicab
6 Commission, recently informed Councilman" --

7 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr., Mr., Mr.
8 BETHEA.

9 MR. BETHEA: -- "Councilman Graham of
10 the very same thing in a recent" --

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. BETHEA.
12 Mr. BETHEA.

13 MR. BETHEA -- "hearing."

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: It's now 10
15 minutes.

16 MR. BETHEA: Okay.

17 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: We actually --
18 what we could do -- what we're doing is we're
19 losing --

20 MR. BETHEA: Well, Ms., Ms., all due
21 respect to Thompson --

22 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: What I suggest,

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1 what I suggest --

2 MR. BETHEA: I'm going to summarize this
3 right now. I wanted to read this letter to
4 give the people the background as to why I've
5 come in here requesting this cap.

6 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, I think
7 you've done an excellent job --

8 MR. BETHEA: Okay. Now --

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: -- in fact, of
10 communicating that.

11 MR. BETHEA: Okay. Now --

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: What I would
13 like to do is I want to make sure that I'm
14 able to get some comments from the
15 commissioners. And so I -- that's -- at some
16 point you'll be reading the thing and there's
17 nobody here.

18 MR. BETHEA: Well, that's just the --
19 that's just the point, that 39 -- \$339 million
20 is going to be issued. I just sat in a
21 conference forum where I have right now in
22 front of me one letter of intent from one

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1 company out of the 13 companies that can put
2 up their \$80,000 in order to meet the -- to
3 receive their 80 percent grant from the
4 Department of Transportation.

5 The other 12 companies don't have the
6 resources and cannot borrow the money. Okay?
7 I have a spreadsheet that I have. I will
8 release this spreadsheet at another later
9 date, showing what -- how this \$20 million
10 would be broken down and spent to pay for the
11 general liability coverage for those insurance
12 coverages for those 151 vehicles for three
13 years.

14 A loan comes to \$543,000. The bottom
15 line is we're looking at a total of \$6,040,000
16 to purchase 151 vehicles. We're looking at a
17 bottom line figure of \$13,982,000 in order to
18 cover everything which is involved with
19 putting these vehicles on the street.

20 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bethea,
21 you've been at a number of meetings that
22 you've actually provided this information.

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1 What I'm going to recommend is the way our law
2 is structured, it allows the Panel on Rates
3 and Rules to be the entity that your request
4 for a moratorium would go to, initially. It's
5 just the process.

6 The way the Commission's authorization
7 is set up, it authorizes either the Panel on
8 Rates and Rules or the Panel on Industry
9 Concerns to address various issues. This
10 issue of moratorium is specifically within
11 that panel first.

12 You asked to be placed on the agenda,
13 and so, in essence, this is part of the
14 regulations. You've been allowed to do that.
15 What will happen next is your -- the panel is
16 actually scheduled to meet next week, and what
17 I'm asking is that I already have most of the
18 documents, if there's any that I do not have,
19 please bring them to me.

20 You can also attend that meeting and go
21 in depth in terms of the petition itself. I
22 understand why you're advocating for the

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1 moratorium, so that the drivers can have some
2 equity in the system and can in fact address
3 some of the shortcomings of our open system.

4 So I'm just saying that that is
5 procedurally what we do next. And so we are
6 -- we have got to, at some point, take this
7 issue, place it before the panel and go from
8 there. We're not going to have a vote today.

9 MR. BETHEA: I'm not asking for a vote.
10 I'm trying to basically get people to
11 understand that we don't have, out of 108
12 companies, we only have three full-service
13 taxicab cities in -- companies in this city.

14 Ninety-nine percent of these cab
15 companies in the city now are repairing the
16 companies' cars and painting and doing paint
17 jobs to keep their doors open. And with these
18 companies not having any vested business
19 licenses for these DCTCs or these cab drivers,
20 we are not going to receive a dime of the \$339
21 million which is going to be released to other
22 municipalities from the Department of

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1 Transportation.

2 I was the only person other than Ms.
3 Carolyn who sent in the pre-application form.
4 Now, I was told that my 501(c)(3) would have
5 to have an 80 percent match to put up for the
6 cab industry. My company doesn't have that.
7 We're lobbying now trying to get something
8 done.

9 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Mr. Bethea, did
10 you see the -- did you happen to take a look
11 at the budget document that came from Mr.
12 Graham? You might take a look at that.

13 MR. BETHEA: I looked at that budget --

14 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: No, you don't
15 have to answer that today --

16 MR. BETHEA: -- that program. Yes, I've
17 looked at the program --

18 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: The program that
19 he's put in there.

20 MR. BETHEA: Yes, I've looked at it.

21 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: And if
22 that's not helpful, also let us know at the

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1 panel, because I thought that was his way of
2 trying to get that -- get you guys some of the
3 money so that you could actually do that.

4 MR. BETHEA: Well, that's not going to
5 scratch the surface. In this low-interest
6 loan program, they're not using the one that's
7 already out there.

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Okay. Okay.

9 MR. BETHEA: Mr. Tapscott has a
10 question.

11 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: All right. I
12 haven't -- I'm going to -- Thank you so much,
13 Mr. BETHEA. Mr. Tapscott?

14 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Madame Chair,
15 I've been on this committee for a number of
16 years. Never before have I seen that the
17 public can make a motion to put anything on
18 the agenda to be voted on. Normally it has to
19 come from a commissioner, and a commissioner
20 is -- and the commissioners have to vote
21 whether it should be recommended to the Panel
22 on Rates and Rules.

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1 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: That may have
2 been how someone handled it, Mr. Tapscott.
3 What -- I've read the regs, and it basically
4 says if you get the item to any commissioner
5 14 days before the --

6 COMMISSIONER TAPSCOTT: Commissioner,
7 but --

8 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Well, he got it
9 to me.

10 MR. BETHEA: I got it to her, and it's
11 stamped in 14 days prior to this hearing.

12 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: So that's -- you
13 know, I -- that's the -- I've read the
14 regulations. That's what it says. I am, I
15 am, I need to make a move here for a minute.
16 So --

17 MR. BETHEA: Will this be moved to the
18 Rates and Rules Panel?

19 ACTING CHAIR THOMPSON: Yes. Yes.
20 That's the process. We will do that, Mr.
21 Bethea. And on that note, I'm going to
22 adjourn the meeting. And you do have a chance

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1 to talk to Mr. Swain and the other
2 commissioners who are here.

3 (Whereupon, at 11:50 a.m., the foregoing
4 meeting of the D.C. Taxicab Commission was
5 adjourned.)
6
7